

Cavalier, ND

Mohall Central RR

EI-3220



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Wetland Acquisition Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501



February 28, 2007

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 "K" Street NW
Washington, DC 20423

RE: STB Docket No. AB 1003X
Mohall Central Railroad Inc., Petition for Exemption to Abandon Portions of Railroad in
Nelson, Ramsey and Cavalier Counties, North Dakota

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I would like to take this opportunity to provide additional information regarding the biological resources discussed in the draft Environmental and Historic Report (Report) of the Mohall Central Railroad, Inc., Abandonment Exemption for Portions of a Line of Railroad in Nelson, Ramsey and Cavalier Counties, North Dakota, prepared by Felhaber, Larson, Fenlon and Vogt.

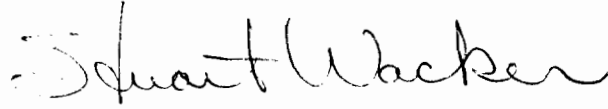
That part of the Report entitled "Biological Resources", page 6, did not identify three parcels of land in Ramsey County, North Dakota, that are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These lands are traversed by the railroad line described in the Report.

The lands are Waterfowl Production Areas (WPA) owned in fee title and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). They are more particularly described as T. 156 N., R. 60 W., 5th P.M., Section 21, that part of the W $\frac{1}{2}$ lying west of North Dakota State Highway 1 and T. 158 N., R. 62 W., 5th P.M., Section 10, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and Section 13, SW $\frac{1}{4}$.

The tracts were acquired by the Service as critical breeding and nesting habitat for waterfowl and other water dependent bird species. These areas are composed of wetlands and vegetated uplands. If abandonment of the railroad traversing these areas takes place, it is critical that the land occupied by the railroad is sold to the Service to avoid an inholding situation within the WPAs. Inholdings can result in uses that cause WPAs to be less attractive to waterfowl for breeding and nesting purposes, resulting in less reproduction on those areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the draft Report. If you have any questions, please give me a call at our Bismarck, North Dakota office, 701-355-8518.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Wacker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stuart Wacker
Supervisory Realty Specialist

cc: Project Leader, Devils Lake WMD Complex